

FALLBROOK AIRPARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY AIRPARK
2155 S. Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028
Phone: (760) 723-8395

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M. on August 29, 2011 at the Fallbrook Public Utilities District, 990 East Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA.

ROLL CALL Members present represent a quorum.

Ken Kalbfell	Present
Carl Morrison	Present (by Telephone)
David Duffer	Present
Doug Dwyer	Absent
Jeff Holstein	Present

COUNTY STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT

Peter Drinkwater-Director of Airports
Leeann Lardy-Project Manager, Real Estate- Airports
Ian Hodgson- Real Properties Agent/SAC Chair
Bo Donovan-Fallbrook Airport Manager

MINUTES

The minutes from the August 1, 2011 meeting were noted with no changes. Motion to approve by Mr. Duffer seconded by Mr. Morrison and passed with 3 ayes, 0 nays ¹.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on items not on the Agenda.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Ms. Lardy presented to the Committee a Power Point presentation on the application for a drop zone on airport property by Skydive America. That presentation is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

¹ Mr. Morrison voted in favor of the motion but his vote was not official because FAAC By Laws Article VI-Organization Procedures-Section II Voting states: *Any group voting is on the basis of one vote per person, and no proxy, telephone or absentee voting is permitted. A majority of members in attendance shall be required to carry any motion or approval. All voting shall be by voice, unless a roll call vote is requested by a member.*

Within this presentation was a motion recommended by County staff for the Committee. That motion was to be considered by the Committee following public comment on the subject.

Mr. Hartung, owner of Skydive America asked to make his comments following the public comments.

Col. Michael Lawrence, Commanding Officer of the Camp Pendleton Air Station spoke of his “extreme safety concerns” and told the Committee he believed that a drop zone should be established at a “better and safer” location. It was his belief a drop zone this close to Camp Pendleton’s approach points presented safety issues and work load issues for his controllers and helicopter pilots. Col. Lawrence believed the Fallbrook Airpark and Camp Pendleton’s air operations had coexisted for many years without incident because there were no competing interests. This changes that dynamic.

Mr. Jerry Pendzick, FSDO Manager, explained the role of FSDO in aviation activities within San Diego and Imperial Counties. Mr. Pendzick stated that while the Fallbrook Airpark and its airspace might not be the best place for parachute operations, it would be normally permitted under FAA rules and regulations, specifically 105.2c which gives guidelines for an airport operator to follow when considering such operations. Mr. Pendzick also explained that while there are many “legal” aviation activities, not all are suited for all airports. He stressed that Skydive America did have legal options to challenge County airport management’s decisions, but that everyone involved should try to make every good faith effort to review the proposal fairly.

Mr. Morrison asked Mr. Pendzick, “Can the airport really say no?” Mr. Pendzick stated the answer was yes, but that its reasons must be carefully justified.

Mr. Duffer stated that he was swayed by the Camp Pendleton concerns for safety, as expressed by Col. Lawrence.

Mr. Kalbfell stated that he felt that the only way to avoid the Marine’s concerns regarding their entry points was for a straight in approach into and over the Airpark’s traffic pattern.

Mr. Mike Wallick, an Airpark based pilot and resident of Carlsbad stated that he had major safety concerns and reminded the Committee that the Airpark was in uncontrolled airspace, the right hand pattern for runway 18 is often used and he believes that parachute drops on the airport would be an unsafe and dangerous operation.

Mr. Milt Black, Airpark based pilot and tenant at Aircraft Hangar Management, said that he feels that the Airpark is a great airport and works well with Camp Pendleton, but parachute drops would interject a great danger and doesn’t make sense. Mr. Black said

he believes a safer drop zone would be at a location 8 to 10 miles away from the airport. Mr. Black said that parachute drops were a distraction to both Camp Pendleton and Airpark pilots and that he has had to divert his flight path 3 times to avoid the parachutes and he felt "This is an accident waiting to happen".

Mr. Don Evans, a 34 year resident of Fallbrook, head of the Young Eagles program and Board member of Friends of Fallbrook Community Airpark, spoke about how his Young Eagles Days brings nearly 50 young people and 15+ pilots, and their aircraft, to the Airpark 3 times each year. He was in agreement with the County's recommendation and he believes the airport is constrained and already has enough safety issues for pilots to worry about without further distractions.

Mr. Lee Ayers, Partner in Aircraft Hangar Management, noted that the problem was the proposed on airport location of the drop zone, not parachuting in general. Mr. Ayers suggested that County staff work with Mr. Hartung to find a suitable location. He took no position on whether parachuting was safe or unsafe.

Tom Wilson, long time Fallbrook resident, Airpark based pilot and board member of Friends of Fallbrook Community Airpark, revealed his organization's poll results...85% against, 14% in favor, when the question posed was "Do you believe a parachute operation with a drop zone on the airport can be done safely". Nine of ten of his members were opposed to this type of operation and "it is an accident waiting to happen".

Mr. Bob Hume, an Aircraft Hangar Management tenant for the past 5 years and has flown into the Airpark since it opened, asked the question "will this make the airport safer?" Mr. Hume took no position, but urged the County to establish strict safety standards for operations, should this proposal be approved.

Mr. Mark Alderson, a tenant of Fallbrook Air Service, who lives in Fallbrook, stated that he supports the County's recommendation and that parachute operations will have a negative impact on hundreds of aircraft operations daily. He further stated that he observes planes flying into the airport without using a radio frequently and that nothing prohibits a pilot from using the right side for runway 18 and he's observed dozens of planes using that right side.

Mr. Jeff Hendricks, partner in Aircraft Hangar Management asked if parachute operations had been done at other non-towered airports and stated that he was not a pilot and didn't know if it was safe or unsafe.

Mr. Granger Haugh a Fallbrook resident and long time pilot stated that he couldn't believe that a drop done on the airport is even being considered and that he was concerned about student and transient pilots. He also stated that it would be an unsafe mix of activities and was "insane".

Mr. Eric Hartung, owner of Skydive America spoke, first, to the concerns of Col. Lawrence, and said that he would purchase new UHF radios so that he could communicate with the Marine pilots. Mr. Hartung also stated that if there were traffic conflicts, he wouldn't jump at that moment. Mr. Hartung also referred to Lake Perris Airport, March Air Force Base and some 200 other un-controlled airports with skydiving operations. He said he'd moved 4 times to accommodate pilot and the airport's concerns and that moving anywhere within the County, and not on the airport, would cost \$300,000 for a Major Use Permit.

Mr. Hartung stated that he'd performed a number of jumps out of the Airpark without incident and that SoCal Approach wants him next to the Pendleton Restricted Area.

Mr. Holstein asked Mr. Hartung if there was an area he could jump to on the east side of the airport. Mr. Hartung replied that he didn't know of any.

Mr. Ralph Calunga, a longtime Airpark based pilot and resident of Bonsal wanted to offer 3 acres of his property in the Bonsal area, but wondered if it was zone compliant.

Mr. Black wondered if the Pala Indian Reservation would allow it.

Mr. Drinkwater stated the County had a Tribal Relations representative and that he would explore that question with the proper channels.

Mr. Duffer asked if the staff had any leverage with code enforcement to seek a waiver to the zoning codes.

Ms. Lardy stated that we had no such leverage and that zoning codes must be followed, however staff could contact code enforcement to perhaps try and find a zone compliant piece of property that might work.

Mr. Morrison stated that he's often been inconvenienced by other pilots. He also stated that he believed the Friends of Fallbrook Community Airpark survey of its members was fair and objective, but that those members did not have the benefit of hearing from Skydive America.

Mr. Holstein stated that in his 35 years in aviation, he's seen a number of fatal accidents and that the airport's segmented circle indicated to him the airport didn't have a west side pattern. Mr. Holstein expressed his concerns about the compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration regulations and the Airman's Information Manual, by local pilots. Mr. Holstein also described events of his own 35 years in aviation to exemplify the benefits of safety of flight and legal mitigation by compliance with FAR and AIM.

Mr. Kalbfell stated that he believed that the majority of parachute operations took place at non-controlled airports and pilots weren't supposed to fly a west side pattern.

A motion was then made by Mr. Duffer, and seconded by Mr. Kalbfell, that the Committee consider the recommendation by County Staff with a Yes or No vote. The staff recommended motion is as follows:

“The Fallbrook Airport Advisory Committee supports staff’s preliminary position that parachute operations are allowed at Fallbrook Airpark, but that permit for a drop zone on airport property not be permitted.”

The staff recommended motion then passed by a vote of 2 ayes and 1 nay ².

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Kalbfell, seconded by Mr. Holstein and passed 3 ayes, 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 P.M.

Bo Donovan
Airport Manager

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² Mr. Morrison participated in the discussion by phone and voted against the motion but his vote was not official because FAAC By Laws Article VI-Organization Procedures-Section II Voting states: *Any group voting is on the basis of one vote per person, and no proxy, telephone or absentee voting is permitted. A majority of members in attendance shall be required to carry any motion or approval. All voting shall be by voice, unless a roll call vote is requested by a member.*